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Community *notes*

Where to Donate

Grassroots Crisis Intervention

As many of you may know, Grassroots is Howard County's only emergency shelter which operates each day of the year. In the aftermath of the flood in Ellicott City, Grassroots provided a safe place for displaced residents. Please consider donating [online](#) today.

Community Action Council of Howard County

The [Community Action Council of Howard County](#) offers help to people during the most difficult times in their lives. When food is scarce, when eviction is imminent, when the electric bill is past due, CAC can step in to fill the gap. They have set up a fund to receive donations restricted for the flood victims. For more information, click the link above or call 410-313-6440.

United Way

The United Way has agreed to accept our community's generous outpourings of support to assist Ellicott City. If you'd like to contribute to their efforts, you can go to their [website](#) to make a monetary donation.

Ellicott City Partnership

If you'd like to donate to ECP's merchant and resident flood recovery fund, visit the [website](#).



Greetings

In Howard County, we care about our neighbors. Many residents have requested more information about how to help our Main Street neighbors after Ellicott City was hit by severe flash flooding on Saturday, July 30. This newsletter issue highlights ways you may help our neighbors in need throughout the county.

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How to Volunteer

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks is welcoming volunteers at the #ECStrong Volunteer Reception Center, located at the Ellicott City 50+ Center (9401 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042), on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers can register in person at the Volunteer Center or [online](#). Once the volunteer operation is in full swing and larger areas deemed safe as work sites, Recreation and Parks staff expect to have volunteer teams working in damaged areas from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. This is a hands-on approach to the flood recovery, and a great opportunity to have a direct impact on the rebuilding efforts for those able to participate.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and able to pick up at least 40 pounds. On arrival, report to the Volunteer Center with a photo I.D. and work gloves (if available) and wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and sunscreen. All volunteer groups should check in at the Volunteer Reception Center. Please do not go directly to the restricted area. Please call 410-313-2900 with any questions.

Your Help Can Make a Difference

Howard County Food Bank

The [Howard County Food Bank](#), run by the Community Action Council of Howard County, has been at the heart of many crisis recovery efforts, providing meals to the hungry since 1965. They are accepting donations of all food; the most in demand items are:

- High protein canned meals with pop tops (ravioli, spaghetti, soups)
- Single serve, ready to eat energy bars
- Toiletries and personal care items
- Diapers and baby food products
- Can openers
- Meal makers, pasta sauce, tuna
- Pasta, rice, side dishes
- Canned or jar fruits



Monetary contributions can be targeted to a family's particular dietary needs, and honed to do the most good. Consider donating through their [website](#). If requested, donations will be used 100% to support the flood victims.

Aid for WIC Recipients



The [Howard County Health Department](#) seeks help for WIC clients displaced by the flood. They're specifically requesting diapers, baby clothes, wipes, food, school supplies, and new or used children's clothes. Donations can be dropped off at 8930

Stanford Boulevard in Columbia. For more information, please contact the local WIC office at 410-313-7510.

Contribute to Prepare for Success

School is right around the corner, and the flooding has left some parents unexpectedly scrambling to get their kids ready. To help these kids get a smooth start to the school year, drop off school supplies during regular business hours now through Saturday, August 20 at [these locations](#), or sponsor a child by sending payment by mail (Community Action Council / PFS, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046) or through their [website](#).

Support Local Businesses During Tax-Free Week

Maryland's [Tax-Free Week](#) is Wednesday, August 14 through Tuesday, August 20. During that week, any single, qualifying article of clothing or footwear priced \$100 or less – regardless of how many items are purchased at the same time – will be exempt from the state's 6 percent sales tax. Why not use this opportunity to shop locally and support Ellicott City businesses as they rebuild? For more information on qualifying items, visit the Comptroller of Maryland's [website](#).

Help HCAC Help Artists

Many artists with studios and galleries in Ellicott City suffered substantial losses of artwork and studio space, severely impacting their ability to earn a living. To aid these artists on their long road to recovery, the Howard County Arts Council has established [Re-create: Ellicott City Artist Relief Fund](#). HCAC will be extending the current exhibit, Paint It! Ellicott City 2016, which showcases artwork created during the July 2016 Plein air event, until the end of September, with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this work donated to the fund. Several Paint It! artists have already generously agreed to donate 100% of their sales to help the relief effort.



How can art enthusiasts help Ellicott City artists?

- Visit the Howard County Center for the Arts (8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City) to see the Paint It! Ellicott City show and consider purchasing a piece of artwork.
- Donate to Re-create: Ellicott City Artist Relief Fund on the [Support the Arts](#) page (please include Re-create: EC Artist Relief Fund in the "purpose" section).
- Join HCAC on Friday, September 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., for the Annual Meeting & Grant Awards reception.
- Attend the closing reception for Paint It! on Friday, September 30, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Other Recommended Ways to Help

Other organizations are accepting donations on behalf of our neighbors in need. You may wish to consider making a donation to one of the following:

- Preservation Maryland has set up an [emergency flood recovery fund](#) to aid in the repair and restoration of the City's historic Main Street community and storefronts.
- The American Red Cross is in need of blood and platelets donations. Please schedule your donation today by visiting their [website](#).
- The [Howard County Mental Health Authority](#) is responsible for planning, managing and monitoring publicly funded mental health services in Howard County. For information call (410) 313-7350.
- [211](#) is a free and confidential service that helps people across North America find the local resources they need. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 2-1-1 and get connected.



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